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ABSTRACT

This book illustrates how children learn foreign languages and when they can do so with the best results. The most recent studies in linguistics, neurology, education, and psychology are evaluated, and the findings are presented in a recipe format. Parents are encouraged to evaluate the multilingual children in their lives with the use of tools that include a family language profile and a family language goals worksheet. Chapter titles include the following: "The Search for the Secret to Successful Bilingualism: Somewhere between Academia and the Family"; "Ten Key Factors in Raising Multilingual Children: A Recipe for Success"; "Ingredients: Taking Advantage of the Windows of Opportunity; Your Child's Aptitude for Foreign Languages"; "Baking Instructions: The Role of Motivation in Second Language Acquisition; Second Language Learning Strategies: Being Consistent with the Chosen Strategy"; "Kitchen Design: The Role of the Language Environment" (including sibling role); "Plumbing and Electricity: The Multilingual Brain"; "The Chefs and Chefs' Assistants: The Role of the Teachers and the Schools"; "Baking Your Own: Your Personal Family Language Profile"; "A Mess in the Kitchen: What To Do in Problem Situations; . Some Suggested Readings; Changing Language Strategies"; and "The Sweet Smell of Success: A Summary; Diary Accounts of My Own Children's Language Development." Two appendices are included: "Finding Language Sources in Scarce Language Environments" and "The Family Studies: How the Information Was Gathered." A glossary, index, and bibliography are included. (KFT)